

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-23 stand in the present application, claims 1, 4, 11 and 14 having been amended, claims 2 and 18 having been canceled and new claims 22 and 23 having been added. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 14-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawagoe in view of Norihiro, and further in view of Yap. Claims 11-13 and 20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawagoe in view of Yap and further in view of Nagashima. The Examiner's § 103 rejections of the claims are believed to have been overcome in view of the above-described claim amendments as set forth below.

Each independent claim has been similarly amended by deleting the limitation "the insulative region only being formed remote from an external edge of the semiconductor stacked structure when viewed in plan, said external edge being remote from the striped waveguide region" and adding the limitation "an external edge of the insulative region is remote from an external edge of the active layer when viewed in plan." See, for example, amended claim 1. In claims 1, 4, 11 and 14, the added limitation is supported by, *inter alia*, Fig. 10 of the present application.

Since none of the cited references teach or suggest the added limitation, the present claims patentably define over the cited art taken singly or in any combination.

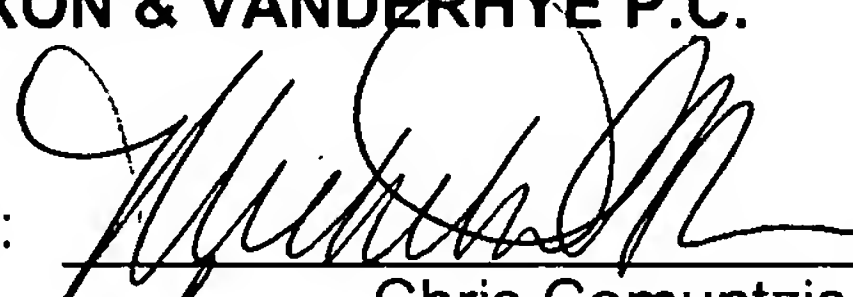
Newly added claims 22 and 23 are supported by the description at page 22, lines 3-8 (Fig. 8) and at page 22, lines 8-12 (Fig. 9) of the present application, respectively.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1, 3-9, 11-17 and 19-23, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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